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YENCHING NEWS

Vol. 2

Yenching University, Peiping, China, Tuesday, April 7, 1936

No. 53

Dance Shoes Give Place to "Sneakers" in Tennis Scason

The piano rolled off a lively old English tune, and the dancers skipped, clapped hands, boundeed, held hands, twisted, etc. It was the faculty folk-dancing class, meeting every Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in Boyd Gymnasium. Last Tuesday night, however, the gay group stepped their liveliest for the last time during the 1935-1936 season for tennis season is in full swing, and outdoor recreation is now paramount.

The gymnasium, poor acoustically; blurs the sound of the piano, but the faculty fail to notice it, remain romping, jumping, shuffling. Playing for the dances since November when the present dance season began have been the K'uang sisters, Lucille and Mary. Says Mary, "It's fun, but it gets tiresome at times repeating a tune eleven times".

The dances are English country dances, revived a few years ago by Cecil Sharpe, an Englishman. He noticed the beauty of the steps, noticed too that they were dying out among the peasants and would be entirely forgotten in another generation. So he hunted up a few old fiddlers who had sawed away when the dances had enjoyed wider vogue, learned the steps from them, and began teaching their beauty.

So popular are they today in in England that Mrs. Bertram Hale, a country dance expert and now in Peiping, claims that at festivals, as many as 3000 participate. They have spread to the United States, and now to the Yenching campus.

"These country dances are beautiful to take part in, though probably less so to watch," Miss Dora Cummings, class instructor, assured the interviewer. "We don't do it exactly right, but we get much fun from it," she said.

"The dances are interpretations of the music. So if the music goes well, the dance does, too, continued Miss Cummings. "And Mary K'uang plays the tunes extremely well."

The faculty children, like their elders, have also been inculcated with the spirit of the dance, and up to three weeks ago, insisted on joining the grown-ups at their two dance hours. To avoid children tangling legs with the elders, since the latter were beginning to complain, and at the same time to appease the children, Miss Cummings started dance groups for tots three weeks ago. To see the tiny legs hopping and swinging around is an almost inspiring sight.

Warm weather having arrived and tennis again forging to the fore, pianist, faculty and children have changed from dancing shoes to "sneakers".

Miss Waller & Dr. Nutting Entertan

Dr. Clara Nutting and Miss Margaret Waller entertained with a dinner party Wednesday evening at House 53, South Compound, in honor of Miss Grace Boynton.

Stuart Due Here Before Sunday

Pres. J. L. Stuart will be on hand at Yenching for the Easter service of the Christian Fellowship this Sunday at which he will preach and conduct the baptism ceremonies, it was definitely stated in a telegram from Shanghai.

Spring Flowers Spring Late

Spring flowers are one month late this year. "But they're coming out with a bang," said Mrs. L. C. Porter yesterday afternoon, while on one of her inspection tours through the campus. Miss Hilda Hague is also seen daily making the rounds of the grounds.

Mathematician Visits Yenching

Mr. Ralph E. Lapwood, mathematics graduate of Cambridge, and now of Medhurst College, Shanghai, is visiting the Yenching campus for a few days, staying at the home of Dr. S. D. Wilson.

59 South Compound

Yenta Calendar

Today, Tuesday, April 7.

6:30 p.m. Sage Vesper Mr. T. C. Chao 8:00 p.m. Mid-week Meeting for Prayer Sage 8:00 p.m. Discussion Group

Subject: Personality Adjustment

Wednesday, April 8.

8:55 a.m. Ninde Chapel Mr. Rugh and Mrs. Wolferz 8:55 a.m. Sage Chapel Mr. Phelps 6:30 p.m. Sage Vesper Mr. T. C. Chao

8:00 p.m. Lecture on "Baseball Story" Ninde Speaker: Mr. Arthur Rugh Men's Gymnasium

Thursday, April 9.

8:55 a.m. Ninde Chapel Mrs. Wolferz 8:55 a.m. Sage Chapel Mr. Phelps

4:45 p.m. Yenta Fellowship Holy Communion Ninde

Leader: Mr. T. C. Chao

Preacher: Mr. J. F. Li 6:45 p.m. Yenta Chorus Practice Sage

Friday, April 10.

8:55 a m. Ninde Chapel Mrs. Wolferz 8:55 a.m. Sage Chapel Mr. Phelps

8:00 p.m. Victrola Concert Gamble Hall 4:15 p.m. Good-Friday Service Ninde

Leader: Miss Wood

Chorus In Top Shape For 'Messiah' Concert

Shadick Predicts Success For Song-Birds After Stormy Practice Season All Semaster

Ejaculating "That's excellent!" after each chorus sung at last night's special rehearsal, Mr. Harold E. Shadick, conductor, appeared certain that the singing of Handel's "Messiah" by the Yenching Chorus this Easter Sunday night in Bashford will be a triumph. "You sang almost too well for a rehearsal," he exclaimed at the finish of the rehearsal.

After Sunday night's concert, the chorus will have passed through its most stormy and uncertain season since its inception in 1928. Scheduled to take place last December, the concert has been postponed until this Sunday. Practices have been delayed many times, student strikes, holidays, and mass meetings cutting into the regular Thursday night rehearsals.

Arrested Students To Be Freed From Prison Soon

The seven Yenching students arrested during the Kuo Tsing Memorial exercises last Tuesday will be released soon, it has been learned from reliable sources.

Classes were resumed last Saturday after an attempt to hold a mass meeting that morning failed, a quorum not being reached.

Wise Words From Young Minds Each Week At South Compound

"At Home" in two South Compound houses have brought out some interesting weekly discussions this semester. House 5 started last semester, and House 57 followed in the idea this term. The former, the Shadicks' abode, elicits wise words each Thursday evening after the chorus hour, while House 57, the home of Miss Margaret Speer, Miss Augusta Wagner have attracted keen student minds on Wednesday nights.

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### The Yenching News

English Section of the Yenching Hsin Wen, (燕京新聞) laboratory publication of the Department of Journalism of Yenching University. Peiping, China.

Published twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays.

### Baptism Ceremonies at Easter

Yenchinians wishing to be baptized or who have infants whom they wish to present at the baptism ceremonies on Easter Sunday have been regusted to notify one of the chaplains before Saturday. The service on Easter will be conducted jointly in Chinese and English, and will start at 10 a.m. instead of the usual hour, 10:30.

### Good Humor, Haste, Noise, Confusion Begin Early Day in Women's Dorms

Life in a Yenching women's dormitory actually begins at half-past five in the morning. Things start in a hush. A window may creak softly as an early riser closes it. One or two doors open and shut gently. Slippered feet shuffle past closed doors on their way to the bathroom. Then comes the not unpleasant sound of someone brushing her teeth. Water drones soothingly as it flows through the pipes to an open tap. It is still possible for even a light sleeper to turn over for another nap before getting up.

Dong, dong, dong! The big gong strikes "four bells". Before the hollow tones die out, the janitor has started the dormitory bell. Up and down the corridors he goes, ringing mercilessly, dinning the metallic noise into sleeping brains. Doors start banging. People are not quite so careful about tip-toeing around as they were an hour ago.

Now the bathroom wakes in earnest. With strange hisses and gurgles, hot-water taps begin working; they roar into bathtubs as they are turned on full force. Washbasins and all sorts of other useful articles connected with washing rattle in the midst of the din. A soap-dish crashes to the floor, followed by a loud yell and much laughter. An ambitious voice rises in song, only to be interrupted by animated conversation.

The bell rings again at half-past six, and at seven. People begin to run back and forth between bedroom and bath. Beds are pulled about, drawers jerked out and pushed back with loud noises. Wooden clogs clatter over concrete floors. The telephone wakes with spasms of energetic ringing. Out in the hall a wet mop swishes softly about. If only the janitor would be more careful about hitting the doors and walls so hard with the long handle!

A piercing shriek of the power-house whistle announces seventhirty. Even the laziest of those blessed with first-hour classes have to get up now. And when they do, everybody cannot help but know it! These are the cheerful girls who bounce out of their rooms shouting to each other to hurry up. By the wild confusion in the bathroom, you wonder how they manage to do anything but make a noise and a mess, but for all that, they are washed and dressed in no time. Back in their rooms, everyone can hear them make their beds and straighten tables, processes usually silent. Finally, flinging their doors shut with a violence that shakes the whole building, they rush up for breakfast.

In the dining room, one table-boy has been working since seven o'clock, waiting on fifty-odd girls who breakfast any time between seven and eight. He works so efficiently that one can start eating as soon as she sits down. No one talks much at breakfast; there is barely time to gobble the food down.

As time nears eight o'clock, the lower hall becomes the centre of activity. The janitor is doing his best to pump the usual number of tires, flat at the last minute, meanwhile taking directions for books he is to return to the library. Some excited girl has misplaced her bicycle, so all her friends, or anybody else who happens to be around, promptly join in the general hunt. Things work to a frenzy! Everybody is doing her best to get everybody else off to class on time. The front door does not even bother to stay closed any more; someone is racing out every minute. The front walk is the scene of many a collision as someone dashing home for a forgotten necessity runs into someone else perhaps just back from the same errand. The poor matron can do no more than stand by, helplessly wringing her hands from sheer nervousness, at most saying, "Don't hurry too much; there are three more minutes," obviously not realizing that within these precious minutes, someone might have to run upstairs to fill her pen, fly down again, open the rusty lock on her bicycle, and get to McBrier before a professor who is, unfortunately, never late. In addition, for some unknown and unknowable reason, the amah in one dormitory evidently considers just. before eight o'clock the best time to sweep the front hall. Her broom, her dustpan, and her person add to the general confusion, but what is a drop in the ocean!

Finally the last girl goes streaking down the walk. The amah sweeps the hall all over again. The matron sits down with a sigh of relief. The janitor pulls on his cap and gloves and heads for the library with an enormous pile of books to be returned to the reserve shelf. Comparative peace and quiet reign for the next four hours. ——C.N.T.

### Chaliapin's Recital Well Attended By Yenchinians

Yenching was well represented at Feodor Chaliapin's recital at the Hotel De-Pekin last week. Among those who made a Special trip to hear the famous Russian bass soloist were Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Ritter, Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Shadick, Mrs. R.C. Sailer, Mrs. E.K. Smith, Misses Speer and Wagner, Mr. L.R. Bevan, Mr. Daniel Lew and several other students.

The recital was one of the most impressive and talented heard by Yenching people for a long time. Chaliapin sang so well that he was called upon for encores time and again from the audience. One of his numbers of the evening was the "Volga Boatman", his celebrated recorded selection.

### **Student Fracas Postpones** Miss Speer's Trip South

Miss Margaret B. Speer, Dean of the Women's College, has postponed her going to Shanghai because of the three days' strike and the arrest of several Yenching students. She says that she cannot go away, when four women students are still incarcerated.

It is learned that Dr. Stuart. the President, will come back to Yenching before Sunday. After meeting with him to settle certain problems, Miss Speer will leave for the south before the April 20.

### Black Eagles Glide Through Undefeated Season, Carry Off Open Basketball Crown

The Black Eagles winged their way through an undefeated season and were declared champions of the campus open basketball tournament last night when the Yi Tui forfeited to the high fliers.

Through three games played during the season, the Eagles never met anything resembling opposition. Members of the championship team are Chen Heng-li (capt.), Chang An, Chou I-yeh, Chou T'ung-shih (Tommy), Liao Fu, Tommy Kendall, Wang Cheng-shou, and Wu Jenfang. All are freshmen except Liao Fu, a senior.

### Another Fish Story Retold

Some complaints have been made to the effect that the rights to the fishes in the lake have been sold too cheaply. The complainants would rather keep the fish and let the students hook them out instead.

### Clement C. Wang, D. D. S. 牙醫王潔泉

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